

Fight The Good Fight

#32 Grasping The Blood Covenant

11.7.21

1 Samuel 18:1-4 NASB Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that Jonathan committed himself to David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. ² And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house. ³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his military gear, including his sword, his bow, and his belt.

Getting started

1. The idea of sharing
 - There was a sharing of possessions. (verse 3)
 - There was a sharing of protection. (verse 4)
 - There was a sharing of personhood.
 - Sometimes by touching and mingling blood together
 - Sometimes a small cutting of the flesh
2. From antiquity
3. "Lovingkindness" - an attitude shown toward those who are in covenant.
4. "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
5. A cherished and rare relationship

The Story of David and Jonathan

I. Saul's Jealousy

- A. 1 Samuel 19
- B. The death of Saul and Jonathan

II. David's Loyalty

- A. 2 Samuel 9:1
- B. "I wondered when the purge would begin!"
- C. "For Jonathan's sake."

III. Mephibosheth's Weakness

- A. Lo-debar - "The place of no kindness"
- B. "Deformed; Dethroned; Doomed; Defeated" - Adrian Rogers' description Mephibosheth
- C. He was...
 - 1. Born an enemy of the king.
 - 2. Crippled by a fall.
 - 3. He had to be sought.
 - 4. Lost inheritance - lived in "a place of no kindness."
 - 5. Under a sentence of death.
- D. But though he feared David, the benefits of the blood covenant were available to him.
- E. But he still had to make a decision.
 - 1. "Who am I?"
 - 2. His decision - either refuse the covenant or ratify it.

F. Mephibosheth's infirmity was hidden; David's wound was revealed.

IV. The Blood

- A. Abraham and God
- B. The Passover - "When I see The Blood, I will pass over you."
- C. **Luke 22:20 NIV** In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.
- D. **Acts 20:20 NIV** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
- E. **1 Peter 1:18-21 NIV** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.
- F. **Ephesians 4:30-32 KJV** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
- G. "God for Christ's sake" v. "For Jonathan's sake"

V. The Covenant Effect

2 Samuel 9:1-13 NIV David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"² Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "At your service," he replied.³ The king asked, "Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet."⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked. Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.⁶ When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "At your service," he replied.⁷ "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you

all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”⁹ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family.”¹⁰ You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s[a] table like one of the king’s sons.¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba’s household were servants of Mephibosheth.¹³ And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table; he was lame in both feet.

- A. The King’s Forgiveness - “Fear not, I will surely show you kindness.” (See Psalm 51)
- B. The King’s Fellowship - v. 7, 10, 11, 13 “Always at my table.” Note - Forgiveness is not the best part of salvation; fellowship is.
- C. The King’s Fortune (vv. 3-4; 9,10) (Servants-angels)
- D. The King’s Family - v. 11 behold what manner of Love that we should be called the children of God

Christian Life Lessons

1. Don’t mistake our spiritual dullness for humility.
 - Of course I’m not worthy
 - This is for Jesus’ sake.
 - Let the argument be The Lord’s.
2. Don’t let you feelings overrule facts.
3. Don’t let your trials appear bigger than the triumph.
 - Momentary light afflictions
 - He who began a good work in you.
 - All the food was provided. Old bread and moldy cheese.